

Joseph J. Chella  
Principal

Hassan Robinson  
Assistant Principal

# The Bennet Star



March 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

It's hard to believe March is here; although, one wouldn't know it by looking outside at the white covered grass. With a few months left of school, we want to again point out and acknowledge the effort our students have put into their current school year. Bennet students continue to impress staff with their consistent commitment to their learning. We thank you as well for your support and leadership in this journey.

As we all know, Connecticut now administers the Smarter Balanced Assessment to all students as its standardized assessment. The testing window is April 27 through May 15. Each student will not be testing every day throughout the testing window. We will be sending home a schedule, prior to the testing window, which will outline the testing period. Please encourage your child to do their very best on these tests. We ask that, to the best of your ability, you make it a priority to have your child get a good night's sleep, eat a solid breakfast and be present and on time for school during the Smarter Balanced administration. We really appreciate your help with this request. If you have any questions regarding the Smarter Balanced, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We hope that you all are planning to attend Bennet's parent-teacher conferences. Teams, if they haven't already, will be contacting you soon to set up a date and time for your conference. Conferences will take place March 17-19. Conferences are a nice way for us to share the progress that your child has made throughout the marking period. However, please know that questions can be answered at any time regarding your child's achievement, not only during conferences. Please feel free to email teachers or support services at any point if you have a question, concern or would like to share something positive. Certainly, a phone call is fine as well. If you are still not comfortable, a meeting with a teacher or team may be requested.

We, at Bennet, are continuously working to provide a positive school climate for our entire school community. In line with this effort, we will be having another Positive School Climate assembly this month and next month we have our annual Staff vs Student Basketball Game. More information will be sent home as we get closer. We are very excited about these upcoming events along with the other events approaching in the last few months of school (more information to follow).

We would like to thank all parent(s)/guardian(s) again for your consistent support of your child and Bennet Academy as a whole. This is a partnership and we cannot be successful without your participation. Our students and staff are very lucky here at Bennet to have your support!

Sincerely,

*Joe Chella*

Joe Chella, Principal

## PRINCIPAL HOURS

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

April 1

May 6 and 20

June 3



## ABSENT LINE

Please call the 24 hour absent telephone line every time your child is absent from school:

**860-647-3583**

Please leave your child's name, home base teacher, team, and the reason for the absence.  
Thank you!



## Sixth Grade Physical and Immunizations

All sixth grade students are required to have a physical and proper immunizations by June 1, 2015 on file in the Bennet Academy Health Office. The blue state physical forms must be dated after January 2014 to June of 2015. The State of Connecticut also requires that each student have a Tdap booster after age 11; two varicellas; and a meningococcal vaccine. Failure to provide documentation of the proper health requirements may result in your student not being allowed to enter grade 7 at Illing Middle School. If you have any questions, please call and speak with a school nurse at 860-647-3582. Thank you.

## Bennet Academy S.T.A.R.S. Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who received a S.T.A.R.S. Award at Bennet Academy recently: Harrison Blum, Jonathan Kropp, Tiffany Henry, Chamari Ennis-Beckford, Nevaeh Gabourel, Ahmad Zareef, Amanda Pillard, George Nieradko, Noah Rudenauer, Erika DiPietro, Kayla Canales, Shyanna Amato, Malachi Pinckney-Story, Jaden Figueroa.

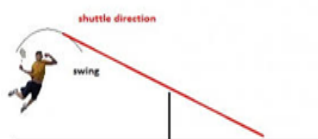


Their pictures are highlighted on our Bennet Academy television monitor located outside the main office. We are proud of our students for the positive choices they are making at Bennet Academy.

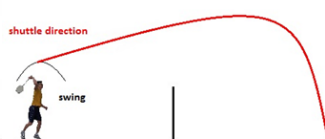
## Physical Education News

We are all trying to keep our cardio levels high and heart rates above freezing this winter! Now in our badminton unit, the students are all having fun while learning and practicing the under-hand serve, game rules, and score keeping.

Each class has been practicing game strategy by using different shots to score points. These include, the drop shot, overhead clear, back hand, change of direction, and smash. They have also been working cooperatively with a teammate in doubles matches.



Smash



Overhead Clear



Drop Shot

## Bennet Academy Art Class

Mrs. Guzzi's art classes are involved in creating a ceramic vessel incorporating three modeling techniques into one piece: coil, slab & pinch pot. They are learning the stages of clay (slip, plastic, leather hard, bone dry) and using that knowledge to properly put together all the parts.

Mrs. Reimels classes have been print making, using Native America-influenced geometric shapes and developing their own symbols based on their interests. They will be explaining how their artwork reflects one of the art elements (such as Color, Line or Texture) or principals (such as Emphasis, Contrast, or Unity).



Abigail Cross working on the slab & coil part of her project.

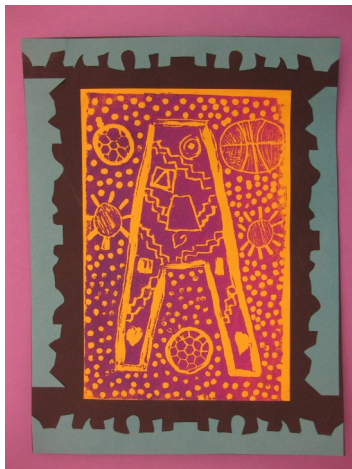


Janai Jones working on the coil part of her project.

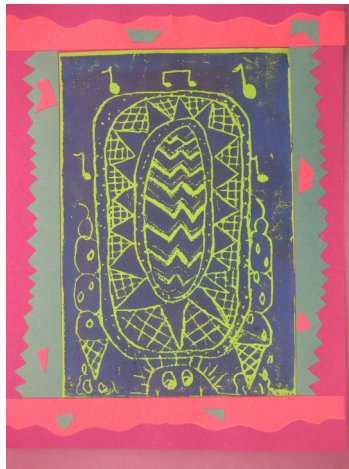


Neri Castro working on the slab & coil part of her project.

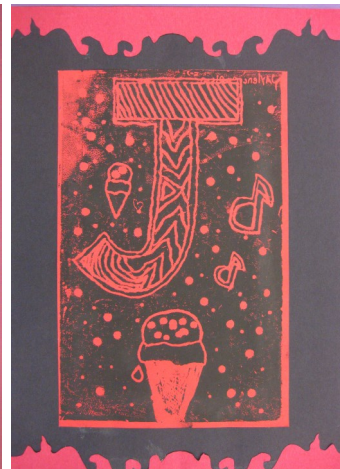
### Printmaking projects with geometric shapes & symbols



Taylor Solito



Olivia Kilgus



Jaylene Rodriguez



**Students in after-school activities will board late buses at 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.**

### SAFETY REMINDER TO PARENTS

Please be sure to have your child exit and enter your car on the sidewalk side of the street. You may also drop off your child in the staff parking lot on School Street.

**FOUND: At-A-Glance Black Planner. Found near the handicapped spot on School Street.**



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mr. Kleiner,  
Band Director

Mrs. Browning,  
Orchestra  
Director

Mrs. Sandefer, Choral  
Director and  
Classroom Music

Mr. Marino,  
Classroom Music



## Music Notes

### Musical Notes

#### March is Music In Our Schools Month

Longfellow called it "the universal language of mankind", and Confucius believed it to be a "kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without." It exists in every world culture, and scientists believe it may predate human speech. During March, schools across the country are celebrating MIOSM, better known as "Music In Our Schools Month."

#### Concerts

Concerts are an opportunity for students to share with parents, family and friends all of their hard work. We hope you will join our students as they present their Townwide Concerts in April. These concerts are an excellent opportunity for students and parents to see the transformation that takes place from the beginning elementary student to the accomplished High School Musician.

#### All Townwide Concerts will be held at Manchester High School, starting at 7:00PM

Townwide Orchestra Concert – Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Townwide Band Concert – Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Townwide Chorus Concert – Thursday, April 9, 2105

The **Bennet Academy Spring Concert** scheduled in May has now been moved to Tuesday, June 9, at MHS starting at 7:00PM.

#### General Music

In General Music classes, students are participating in a drumming unit that connects the style of drums we are using in class and the cultural impact of the slave trade several hundred years ago on our music today. Moving into March, we will emphasize Music In Our Schools Month by having students in general music, *collaborate* in small groups to *create* a rhythm pattern that will be part of an in-class performance. Most students will need *courage* to perform their composed rhythm!

Students in General Music as well as our instrumental students have been focusing on rhythm.

#### Ensemble Rehearsals

Students have been assigned ensembles based on their team. Please help your child to remember their instrument and music on rehearsal days.

DAY A: ORCHESTRA for teams Truth, Ruby Bridges, Mandela and Clementé

DAY B: ORCHESTRA for teams Angelou, Lincoln, and Escalanté

DAY C: BAND for teams Angelou, Ruby Bridges, Truth and Lincoln

DAY D: BAND for teams Mandela, Clementé and Escalanté

DAY E: CHORUS for teams Clementé, Angelou and Mandela

DAY F: CHORUS for teams Lincoln, Truth, Ruby Bridges and Escalanté



## Future Problem Solvers



Bennet Academy Future Problem Solvers:

Front row (l to r) Amber Moriarty, Margaret Sikand, Olivia Kilgus, Morgan Zalcman, Julia Robertson, Madison Norris, Nathan Chervenak, Shyanna Amato, Alexandria McDowell, Nevaeh Gabourel.

Back row (l to r) Ava Hoerner, Abbigayle Cross, Meredith Keyt, Jenna Burke, Lindsey Hoover, Aislinn Gara Grady, Sam Mushinski, Erika DiPietro, Annabelle Watson, Tyonna Tyson, Owen Davis, Mrs. Samantha Randazzo.

### Future Problem Solvers Explore Enhancing Human Potential

Congratulations to Bennet Academy, Illing Middle School and Manchester High School Future Problem Solvers (FPS). Thirty-two students who participate in the Future Problem Solving academic competition have qualified to compete in the 32nd Annual Future Problem Solving Conference at North Haven High School in North Haven, CT on March 27-28. FPS is part of the C.O.R.E. Enrichment Program for gifted and talented students in Manchester Public Schools. The students participating in the State Competition this year are: Myles Hurley, Aminah Nassiff, and Mary Robbins of Manchester High School, joined by teammate Emma Fisher of Kingswood-Oxford School; Emily Christensen, Megan Kievman, Julia Leon, Katherine Miner, Kate Shaw-Mumford, Alyssa Spina, Sarah Turley and Courtney Walsh of Illing Middle School and Nathan Chervenak, Abbigayle Cross, Owen Davis, Erika DiPietro, Nevaeh Gabourel, Aislinn Gara Grady, Meredith Keyt, Amber Moriarty, Samuel Mushinski, Ava Hoerner, Olivia Kilgus, Margaret Sikand, Shyanna Amato, Jenna Burke, Lindsey Hoover, Alexandria McDowell, Madison Norris, Julia Robertson, Tyonna Tyson, Annabelle Watson and Morgan Zalcman of Bennet Academy.

The Conference involves two days of high level team competition with students from all over the state of Connecticut. The topic students will be solving at the Conference is *Enhancing Human Potential*: an exploration of the latest innovations in performance enhancing methods such as bionic prosthesis, performance enhancing supplements and pharmaceuticals, genetic therapy, neural implants, exoskeletons, and much more. Manchester Public School students hope to influence and inspire these innovations through their work in the Future Problem Solving Program.

The goal of the FPS Program is to help children develop the critical and creative thinking skills necessary to adapt to a changing society. Future Problem Solvers learn how to think, rather than what to think. Students develop teamwork skills, improve their written and oral communication and engage in realistic exploration of complex societal issues. Teams work under the guidance of an experienced Future Problem Solving coach, Mrs. Samantha Randazzo, C.O.R.E. Enrichment Program Teacher. Students learn how to apply the six-step FPS problem solving process to a futuristic scenario. After studying the written scenario, teams identify implied challenges and issues as they refine their ideas to one problem area, generate solutions, evaluate their solutions, and write an action plan detailing the best solution.

Please visit these websites for more information: [www.fpspofct.org](http://www.fpspofct.org) and [www.fpspi.org](http://www.fpspi.org).

## Bennet Counseling Corner

### The pillar of the month in March is: Fairness

What does the word “fairness” mean to you? Being fair may entail lots of different things....things like sharing, admitting fault, playing fair, compromising, and caring. But overall, fairness is about making sure all are treated with the kindness and respect they deserve.



## Proud Nutmeg Reader



This is the first time this year that a Bennet student has read all 10 of the Nutmeg books. The Media Center staff are very proud of her. She has received a special bracelet that states "Proud Nutmeg Reader". The Nutmeg Association encourages children in grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of nominated titles. Jointly sponsored by the [Connecticut Library Association \(CLA\)](#) and the [Connecticut Association of School Librarians \(CASL\)](#), the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of our sponsoring organizations.

## Team Mandela

Dear Parent & Guardians,

We have another great semester and your children continue to be enthusiastic learners. Over the course of the months ahead we have the following events:

**March 17:** Sham Gram Fundraiser

**March 17, 18 & 19:** Parent/Teacher Conferences

**April:** Basket Fundraiser for Children's Cancer Org.

**April 25:** Student/Faculty Basketball Game

**May 13:** Field Trip to the Bushnell - The Giver

**May 25:** Salmon Release Field Trip

### Language Arts

**Reading:** The students are continuing to explore the Civil Rights Movement in Language Arts. We have finished "The Children's March" and have investigated the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church Bombings. Our next step is to read and break down John F. Kennedy's Civil rights Speech and the importance it had, not only to the United States, but the world.

**Writing:** Students continue to work on organizing their writing. One way in which we are gaining understanding on how to better organize our writing by using mentor texts and studying the works of other writers. We continue to examine authentic student work also. Using our writer's notebooks, we continue to write daily and build our writing resources. Writing is fun!

**Word Choice:** I don't want to be pessimistic about the upcoming end to our trimester, so, therefore, we are continuing onto a new vocabulary list. Let's all be optimistic and hope you recoil at how well your child is doing in all classes. If not, we can show some compassion, for we are all mortal, and all make mistakes, and a poor grade here and there is not exactly very fragic. I can't wait to see all of you soon at our upcoming conferences.

**Math:** We are continuing to discover rates, ratios, and unit rate in our math classes. Soon, your child will help you calculate the miles per gallon in your car, or what gas station will give you the best price per gallon. To see what we will be working on, consult Engage New York math lessons, module 1, lessons 25-29.

**Science:** In science, Team Mandela is happy to report that ALL of our Salmon eggs have finally hatched and are now Alevin! This is very exciting. We even got to watch the process of a full hatch that took the entire day! Mr. Chella even came up to check it out! We have officially wrapped up our "Matter" Unit and are now into our Weather and Climate unit. We are learning about the different layers of the atmosphere and this week are moving onto understanding conduction, convection and radiation!

**Social Studies:** In social studies, students have become inventors! Students have been discovering how the environment can help humans, and how humans play a vital part in impacting it in both positive and negative ways. Students are using their imagination and creativity to produce a product that is environmentally friendly, use recyclable materials, and can assist humans in their daily living. Students have come up with great Ideas !!!



### Mandela's Hug-O-Gram Fundraiser

Alyssa Duncan, Zach Baranowski, & Kayla Alibrio





## Team Angelou

### Greetings from Team Angelou!

We hope you are all keeping warm! Brrrrr it has been a cold February!

We are looking forward to Spring! And with it comes our last round of Parent Conferences. Please let your student's home base teacher know when you are available to come in to review their report card. We also have our statewide testing in March. We will let you know the testing schedule and how you can prepare your child for the optimum testing experience.

Team Angelou would like to congratulate **Miss Blum**, our District Learning teacher and part of Team Angelou for being voted Teacher of the Month for February! Great Job Miss Blum! [see picture next page]

Team Angelou is planning a couple Field Trips. In order to help offset the cost of these trips, we will be holding a school-wide raffle. We will raffle off an assortment of gift cards (ex. Dave and Busters, iTunes, etc.) Tickets will be \$1 each and may be purchased from any teacher on Team Angelou. Look for more information coming in the Tuesday Folder. Thank you for your support!

Coming up on Thursday, April 23rd will be our Student/Staff Basketball game. It's a great event to bring the whole family. Our very own Miss Blum will be preparing the Bennet Bears Cheerleaders for the event. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

As part of our Positive School Climate initiative, Team Angelou has placed a "Positive Thinking" wall in our hallway. Students and staff place post-it notes on the wall to convey their positive thoughts about Bennet, the Team and each other. Check it out! [see picture next page]

### Social Studies: Mrs. Gibson

Our students have completed our Immigration Unit with a research project of a Famous American Immigrant. We have begun a unit of the Civil Rights Movement. Students are researching one event in the Civil Rights timeline. We will string together their summaries with a Primary Source Document to create an e-presentation of the Civil Rights era. More to come on how you can access the presentation.

### Math: Mrs. Silagi

Our mathematicians continue to work most days of the week on the computer programs - Fast Math or Fraction Nation. They are online programs that help our mathematicians become more fluent in their facts (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing). Please be informed that both of these online programs can be accessed at home.

Using the enVision Math Common Core program, our mathematicians will continue to work diligently to solve multi-step math problems by use of written explanations, math talks, and class conversations in an effort to demonstrate how they figured out the answers.

We have just finished the Topic 7 - Understanding Integers. The students understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions (ex. temperature above/below zero), and know how to use positive and negative numbers to represent quantities in real-world context while explaining the meaning of 0 in each situation. Furthermore, we also understand a rational number as a point on the number line.

Currently, we are working on identifying and graphing points with integer coordinates on the coordinate plane. We will be locating points found on the four quadrants of a coordinate grid and understanding the rational numbers' absolute value related to its distance from 0 on the number line. As always we will be connecting these concepts to real world applications.

Please continue to help your child practice their math facts at home. Once your child is fluent with mathematical facts, the problems will become much easier!

### Science: Mr. Ortiz

We have completed our study of the Elements with each student creating a display of an element. [see pictures next page] Our next unit of study is *Earth Science: Weather and Climate: Characteristics the Atmosphere*; Students will/will be exposed to atmospheric pressure and the basic characteristics of each layer of the atmosphere. We will discuss how altitude affects atmospheric pressure and how temperature and the sun's radiation plays an important role in the water cycle and the earth's weather. Students also learn how the sun is the earth's primary source of energy, and that energy is transferred in the following three ways; 1. Conduction 2. Convection, and 3. Radiation. Students will use all this information to explain how the greenhouse effect can contribute to global warming.

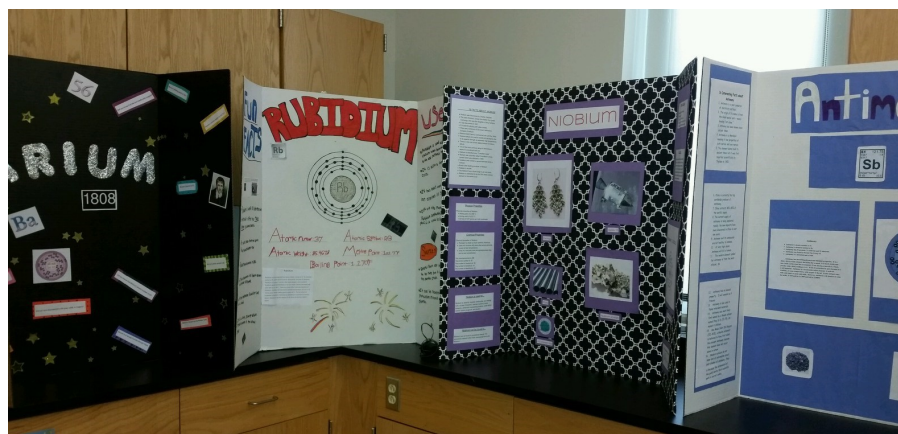
During this unit we will incorporate more about our Atlantic Salmon eggs-by the way they have started to hatch! Students will be exposed to the needs of the salmon during the Alevin stage, food sources in the wild (what they prey upon), stages of life, habitat, and how environmental changes affects this species.

We look forward to seeing you at the Parent Conferences held on March 17th, 18th and 19th. Think Spring!

**Teachers: Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Ortiz, Mrs. Silagi and Miss Blum**



## Team Angelou continued



## Team Clementé

Team Clemente continues to build lasting friendships and exemplify caring and responsible behavior.

**CONGRATULATIONS to: Mileyni Ruiz** ~February Student of the Month

~ **Future Problem Solvers** ~

Exciting news for Team Clemente! Every one of our FPS students has made it to the state competition!

Congratulations to the following Bennet students who have excelled in the FPS program this year and have earned an invitation to compete at the FPS State Competition to be held at North Haven High School on March 27th - 28th. Owen Davis, Erika DiPietro, Nevaeh Gabourel, Aislinn Gara Grady, Amber Moriarty, and Samuel Musinski.

**STAR Student Recognition:** Harrison Blum, Chamari Ennis-Beckford, Nevaeh Gabourel .

### Language Arts News:

Team Clemente students, through the use of technology, have been researching new and interesting African-Americans in history. They are able to organize information about a topic, be clear, and give specific examples and details. With this under their belt, an easy transition into argumentative and persuasive writing follows. Students continue to read independently and happily create book projects each month.

**Kids Can Earn Money Too!** by Gabrielle Morton-Lane

"I need money!" Have you ever heard that before? Well I have. I am a 11 year old, and i need some money! It's a good thing I know how to make some moolah. Ill share three things with you. You can rake the leaves, wash the dishes, and baby sit.

Do you realize that raking the leaves is one of the best ways to get money? You don't only need to rake your own yard, you can also rake your neighbors yards. Imagine all the money that you will get from all your grateful neighbors, and your parents. And it's a chance to get out of the house and in nature. Just you and those beautiful leaves. That reminds me of the time when i was a little younger and i was outside raking the leaves. My mom just got home from work. She had no clue that i was raking the leaves, so she kinda just walked past me. Then she stopped, went in her purse, turned around, and walked towards me. When she got to me, she gave me \$8. That shows that, even if you didn't ask, you can still get money.

Most often, youngsters get money by washing the dishes believe it or not. When you are scrubbing those dishes, just think about the money, your proud parents, and how shiny those dishes are going to be. And, your not only washing the dishes, you are also relaxing yourself with the cool water, and the sound of the water running down the sink. Heres something you can do to get you parents proud, grateful, and very thankful. You can do the dishes without even asking if they need help with the dishes. 70% out of 100% of children wash the dishes.

Let me fill you in on babysitting. When you are a babysitter, you are most likely to see how fun it is. It's just you and the kid, and not some hard paperwork. You should still be prepared for babysitting. Usually, if the kid is younger, they will want to have playtime, naptime, and snack time. You should also be very kind and gentle with the child or children you are watching. You can play games with the kid you are watching, like hide and seek, cards, (if they know how to play) if they have a Wii, you can play some games on there. And, children love music! Ask if they have a favorite song, and if they do, put the song on and start dancing with them! They will love it, and they might ask for you to babysit them again, the next time their parents go out. Laura Ruiz, the maker of babysitting says, "Babysitting isn't a job that you need to stress about. It makes your connection with children very very well. And babysitting isn't that hard if you think about it." "And if you don't believe me, then you should try it yourself."

Don't you just feel a rush throughout your body when you do the dishes?

Who doesn't love getting some fresh air while gathering up those beautiful and colorful leaves?

Isn't it just wonderful watching those beautiful children with those huge smiles on their faces?

You will be very impressed when you have all those wads of cash in your hands.



Gabby and Mileyni play a board game (created by Mileyni) inspired by the book *Mick Harte Was Here*.



Quivera Graham uses Microsoft Publisher to create a "newspaper" based on the book *Divergent*.



Mileyni Ruiz creates a "Wanted Poster" for a character in the book *Freedom Crossing*.

In Mrs. Sullivan's class, students created multimedia presentations for the African American biography projects (see below). They are learning how to properly cite the resources that were used. Nevaeh G., Annah A., and Amber M. completed a "bottle buddy" for extra credit.

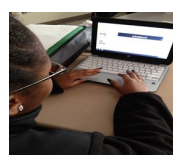
## Team Clementé Continued



Annah A.



Avant W.



Nay'ija S.

### Social Studies News From Mrs. Sullivan

In Social Studies classes, students continue to learn about events that took place during the Civil Rights Movement. They have been using primary source videos, online sources, and other nonfiction text to help them understand these important events. Students continue to strengthen their map skills as well. Recently, we have gained more experience with physical maps. A unit of Canada will start in the near future.

### In Mrs. Melesko's Science class

Science classes have begun exploring "Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures." Students are learning about elements and how they make up compounds and mixtures with differing properties. Our scientists just completed two labs in this unit - "Mystery Mixtures," and "Separating Elements."

Science Night is Wednesday, March 11th. Congratulations to the following Team Clemente students who are either participating in Science Fair, Invention Convention, or highlighting classwork projects: **Nick Alessi, Luis Salazar, Denise Rivera, Alexis Barr, Deborah Weatherly, Shania Benson, Arrion Henry, Anthony Reyes, Karina Diaz, Annah Alibrio, Marian Zajac, Nay'ija Shelton, Sam Mushinski, and Amber Moriarty.** We are so proud of them. The district Science Fair will be March 21st at Illing from 9-12:30. Hope to see you there!

Students have been participating in numerous labs where they are asked to: identify a problem statement/question, form a hypothesis, design a procedure to test the hypothesis, perform the experiment they designed while recording data in both a table and written format, and create graphs to display their data. They are also formulating conclusions that state whether or not their hypothesis was supported by the data they collected and making suggestions for future research. You can access your child's lab reports through Googleclassroom.

Every Friday is "Invention Friday!" Students have been integrating what they have learned about technology, literacy, reading comprehension and science to create a report on an invention of their choice. This assignment can also be accessed at home through Google Chrome "Google Classroom."

If you have internet access at home, your child can also visit [www.scilinks.org](http://www.scilinks.org) and type in the textbook code found in each chapter of our text. The websites provided explore the concepts we are covering in the classroom.

Is your child enthusiastic about science? Are you looking for projects he/she can do at home? Try visiting: <http://www.miniscience.com/SciProjIntro.asp>

This website has project suggestions and gives you a level of difficulty. Have fun!

Visit [www.Schooltube.com](http://www.Schooltube.com) and ask your child to sing "Meet the Elements." This song is full of important science information on elements and compounds.

### **Math ~ with Ms. Paluso:**

Students continue utilizing Fastt Math, an online tutoring programs to help master their multiplication facts, while others are developing computational fluency with fractions by using Fraction Nation. Both of these are web-based Scholastic programs, which means they can be accessed at home. We continue to focus on the Common Core Math Practice of justifying math arguments. Students are using vocabulary and reasoning to have a polite 'debate' over possible answers to difficult math problems. They use written explanations as well as class conversations to show how they know they are right.

Recently we wrapped up a short unit on integers, where previous knowledge was essential. We found there can be fractions and decimals on the negative side of the number line, called rational numbers. Students continue to convert fractions to decimals so they can easily compare and order integers. This flowed right into our next mini unit on the Coordinate Plane. Many remember graphing points in Quadrant I on the x and y axis, but to find negative numbers in Quadrants II, III, and IV was a surprise. And what do you know, appearing out of nowhere are those fractions and decimals again. This time on a grid!

During the coming month we will take some time to assess student growth with benchmark assessments and SBAC. We will continue slowly on through with our Ratios and Rates unit, followed by Algebra.

All students continue to receive Math homework Monday through Thursday.

Visit [www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com) for fun practice of multiplication facts.

Also, [ixl.com](http://ixl.com) is a great site that offers practice in ANY skill- allowing 20 practice problems a day for free.



## Team Escalanté

### Math

Great job to the students working hard through all the Math Assessments! We are finishing up our lessons on coordinate plane, integers and rational numbers. The students are working on an activity to create their own town. The town will include different buildings at different locations on their coordinate grid. Ask your child to explain their map of the town using the Math vocabulary that we have learned: coordinate grid, quadrants, x-coordinate, y-coordinate, x-axis, y-axis, origin, distance, positive, negative, etc. This will bring us right into our lessons on Ratios and Rates. Keep practicing basic multiplication facts at home each night!

### English

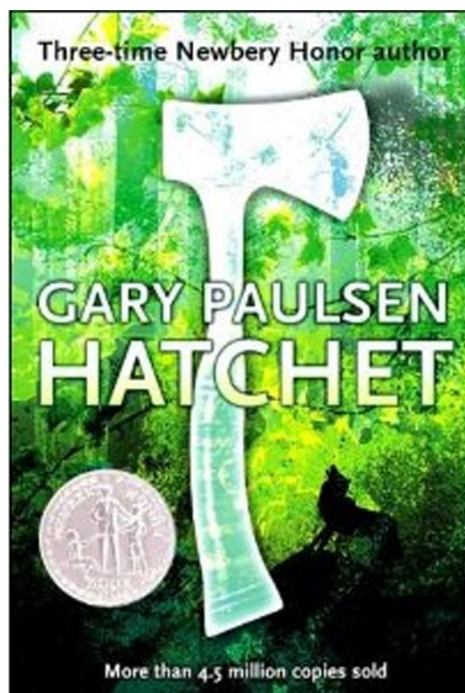
We are excited to be reading The Giver in each homeroom! The book has inspired List #6 for Vocabulary. All the words are taken directly from the book, and we will be working hard to research each word. We are continuing with our grammar lessons, and will continue with identifying nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions.

### Science

During the month of February, we started the Weather and Climate unit. We're working on the characteristics of the atmosphere. The students have done several hands-on activities in class to help them identify the different layers of the atmosphere. Our salmon eggs have started to hatch! We currently have ten alevin in the tank. The students are so excited to see the new hatchlings! Once a month the salmon eggs are pulled out of the tank for the students to observe.

### Language Arts

Our focus in class has been crafting well-built sentences. The students are working on beginning sentences in different ways and creating sentences of different lengths. Using the novel, Hatchet by Gary Paulsen, I have shared with the classes how important it is to craft well-built sentences in their own writing. The students are applying this to their informational research paper. The research paper is due: March 20<sup>th</sup>.



Check your child's planner daily and be on the look-out for the weekly

Communications Folder (Sent home on Tuesday)

## Team Lincoln

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Teachers: Mr. Duva, Ms. St. Laurent, and Ms. Moretto

### Language Arts

Our Language Arts classes have read or will be reading the story, The Gold Cadillac by Mildred Taylor, the book, Bud Not Buddy by Christopher Curtis and various authors and poets like Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes. These stories are one of many short stories and poems that we have been exploring during Black History month. Lincoln students have also read a collection of stories about Black American heroes. Since Abraham Lincoln is our team's namesake, we will be discussing the impact of the Civil War, social justices and injustices, and cultural differences, and how it has changed our history, as we know it today. Students will be introduced to some Black authors and poets, as well. Norman Rockwell's legacy will also be intertwined with this country's history, over the next months.

Engaging in meaningful conversation was entertained by the students and the written responses provided the tools to examine and explore the struggles this country faced in the 1860's through the 1960's to present day. We also discovered how the Children's March played a major role in supporting Martin Luther King and the fight for equality.

The pictorial biography book, entitled Abraham Lincoln, by Tanya Stone, will be discussed in Language Arts classes, too. Narrative writing and Persuasive writing will come into play when the students will have to take a position about the trials and tribulations of Abraham Lincoln's leadership, the Civil War and the laws he created. Debate teams will be set up over the next few months. One of our students, **Madison Chader**, read a book, Jackie, Dad and Me, to the Lincoln Team. She did a great presentation relating the story about the impaired. She also taught the team some signing as we practiced with the alphabet and greetings. It was an informative and meaningful experience.

### Social Studies

Team Lincoln students have finished their review of different types of maps. They have also begun their study of Canada and are looking forward to "traveling" to their province or territory of choice. Packing their suitcase, getting a passport, and making an itinerary, will be some of the points created before the students begin their journey. Team Lincoln will also be involved in an activity of developing a "Canadian ABC book". Please feel free to view not only their Social Studies work, but also their team Language Arts work, which connects their Lincoln studies and the personal "Poems of Many Colors." Team Lincoln will also be creating a "Lincoln Legacy" wall in the hall writing positive and meaningful ideas and experiences they encounter.

### Science

There is no better way to welcome spring than to study it!!! We have logged a few weather observations during the year and now we will be expanding our observations and backing that up with an examination of dendrochronology. Ask your scientist about this term and what we can learn from it. Concepts such as the water cycle, world and regional weather patterns, and how living things react to their environment will be examined.

### Math

We are completing our unit on integers and the coordinate plane. Students are creating their own pictures to graph and then staring them with other students to see if they were able to create a picture puzzle using coordinates that other students can follow.

Next we will be working on our Ratios and Rates Unit. The students are learning to create and solve real-world unit rate problems. Students will use ratios to convert between customary and metric units of measurement. Success in converting units requires students to use the correct conversion factors and to decide whether to multiply or divide when making conversions.

The students are doing several investigations related to this chapter in the curriculum. The students are also reviewing past topics addressed in math to reinforce the skills they will need as they continue on.

## Team Truth

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In Language Arts we have finished up our study of social injustice. Students read a variety of novels, non-fiction articles and poems which addressed social injustice throughout history.

In social studies we will be finishing up our study of Latin America and beginning our study of Canada. Students have been working on creative writing stories and poems to reinforce skills and concepts taught in Language Arts.

In math students are working with integers, ratio, rate and proportion. Please continue to reinforce basic math facts to help your child.

In Science we are wrapping up our unit on matter and finishing up our element research. We are proud to announce that our salmon have begun to hatch. We are looking forward to our May 15th field trip to Salmon River State Park to release them.

We would like to recognize Ian Lythgoe as our most recent student of the month.



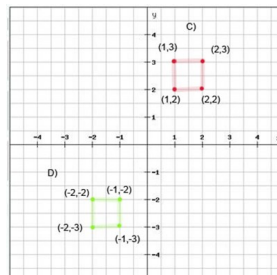


## Team Ruby Bridges

In Ms. Broidis' social studies class, students are completing our civil rights unit. Our next journey will be to Canada.



In Ms. Stevenson's math class, students are working with integers and graphing in the coordinate plane. Every month, students are assigned a problem of the month that is to be completed by a given due date. We have just completed two of the sixth grade math benchmarks for the district.



In Mr. Weyrauch's science class, students are finishing up our Weather and Climate unit. Students will begin a short Biomes project after we discuss climates of the world. We have 7 hatched Alevin and three dead eggs.



In language arts, students have been reading level-appropriate non-fiction texts, utilizing graphic organizers, and then writing journal responses. Students are learning about theme and finding evidence in their texts to support their ideas. The focus of our writing will be argumentative. Students should be reading 30 minutes nightly and responding in their journals.

Team Ruby Bridges' is looking forward to Parent - Teacher Conferences on March 17, 18, 19.

Team Ruby Bridges' Student of the Month for February



Jenna Burke

Writer's  
Workshop



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We're on the web:

<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov>

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Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist  
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45 North School Street  
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Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
Phone: 860-647-3595  
Fax: 860-647-3327



The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.